

REMARKS

This application is a divisional of application No. 09/383,639, which was filed on August 26, 1999.

Claims 12-15 are now pending in this application, with Claims 12 and 13 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled Claims 1-11, added new Claims 12-15, and amended the specification. New Claims 12-15 correspond respectively to Claims 12, 13, 16, and 17 from the parent application, respectively. The changes to the specification incorporate the changes presented in the parent case. No new matter has been added.


Applicants claim priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 10-245993, filed August 31, 1998. A certified copy of the priority document was filed in the parent application on November 15, 1999. Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the receipt this document.

Also, Applicants have enclosed a copy of the Assignment and accompanying transmittal filed in the parent application. Those papers were recorded by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 15, 1999, at Reel 010380, Frame 0984.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of the present application and early passage to issue thereof.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Justin J. Oliver
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,986

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

JJO/umm

DC_MAIN 139704 v 1